Focus Market Scheme and Focus Product Scheme. The details of these schemes are available in the Foreign Trade Policy and on DGFT website *viz.* http://www.dgft.gov.in. It is not likely to affect availability of agro products in the domestic market or lead to upsurge in their prices.

Fewer ports for export promotion scheme

4436. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 346 airports, seaports and inland depots in our country, only 108 ports have been notified for export promotion schemes; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the reasons for not extending this scheme to all the ports in the country, to save the freight cost of large number of exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Out of 208 ports notified under Customs Act, 1962 (comprising of 36 Airports, 91 Sea Port and 81 Inland Container Depots), 108 ports have been notified in the Foreign Trade Policy (based on relevant Customs Notification) for export promotion schemes administered by Department of Commerce.

(b) Customs Ports are notified for export promotion schemes by Department of Revenue on the basis of factors like availability of infrastructure and trade volume.

Help to retailers by foreign companies in retail sector

†4437. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the time of permitting foreign direct investment in retail market in the country any stipulation had been made to the effect that foreign companies would lend a helping hand in making retailers financially sound;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, in which areas the foreign companies can extend help to retailers of the country; and

(c) what effective provisions have been made to ensure that retailers would not be affected adversely due to entry of major industrial houses in the retail business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) As per the extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 51%, with prior Government approval, is permitted in retail trade of 'Single Brand' products which enables the foreign investors to forge joint venture partnerships with Indian companies through participation in the equity capital of the company.

(b) FDI facilitates investments in production and marketing, increased sourcing of goods from India, and access to modern technologies and management practices.

(c) Government has recently instituted a study to assess the impact of organized retailing on unorganized retail trade through Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), Further action, if so advised, would be taken by Government after receipt of the ICRIER Study.

Assessment regarding expansion of retail business

†4438. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per an assessment a turnover of 30 billion dollars during the next five years of retail business in the country is expected;

(b) if not, the assessment of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that about 70 per cent share of total capital investment in the said sector would be of major Indian and foreign commercial institutions; if not, Government's assessment in that regard; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.